

## AMENDMENTS

1. (cancelled) A Media Gateway proxy logically positioned between a Media Gateway Controller (MGC) and a plurality of Media Gateways comprising:

a frontend for receiving a message from said MGC and parsing said message, said message containing an attribute, sub-command, and a destination address;

5 a memory, coupled to said frontend, for storing said message and said attributes, each of said attributes corresponding to a selected one of said plurality of Media Gateways, each of said gateways having an address;

middleware, coupled to said frontend, for finding in said memory said address of a said selected Media Gateway using said destination address and said attribute; and

10 an internal MGC, coupled to said middleware, for receiving the address of said gateway, said subcommand, and said attribute, and forming a plurality of other messages using said subcommand, said address, and said attribute.

2. (new) A device that logically groups a first and a second Media Gateway, said device comprising:

receiving means for receiving a MGC message;

memory means for storing said MGC message, said MGC message corresponding to an  
5 address of either one of said two Media Gateways;

locating means for locating in said memory means said address of a said of either one of said two Media Gateways.

3. (new) The device of claim 2 further comprising:

a receiving means for receiving said address of said Media Gateway, and forming a message using said address.

4. (new) The device of claim 2 wherein said message includes a transaction conforming to a media gateway protocol.

5. (new) The device of claim 4 wherein said protocol is MEGACO.

6. (new) The device of claim 1 wherein said message comprises a sub-command, an attribute, and a virtual destination address.

7. (new) A method of operating a Gateway proxy, said method includes the steps of:

grouping at least two standalone gateways into a virtual Gateway;

allowing a Gateway Controller to transmit messages to the virtual Gateway; and

5 allowing the Gateway Controller to receive messages from the virtual Gateway, thereby

allowing the Gateway Controller to view the virtual Gateway as a single Gateway.

8. (new) A method of transmitting messages, comprising the steps of:

receiving a message, said message including an attribute, sub-command, and a destination address;

storing in memory said message and said attributes, each of said attributes corresponding

5 to a selected one of a plurality of gateways, each of said gateways having an address;

finding in said memory said address of a selected one of said gateways using said destination address and said attribute; and

receiving the address of said gateway, said subcommand, and said attribute and forming a unique message for each of said sub-commands, said addresses, and said attributes.

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9. (new) The method of claim 8 comprising the further steps of:

receiving replies from said plurality of gateways, each of said replies including the transaction completion of selected one of said sub-commands;

determining if said replies include all of said transaction completions; and

5 transmitting a message when all replies have been received.

10. (new) The method of claim 9 wherein said messages conform to a Media Gateway protocol.

11. (new) The method of claim 10 wherein said protocol is MEGACO.

12. (new) The method of claim 9 wherein said destination address is the address of a virtual Gateway.

13. (new) A method of transmitting reply messages from Media Gateways to a Media Gateway Controller, wherein each of said reply messages received is in response to a message containing a sub-command, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a reply message from a Media Gateway; and

5 determining whether all replies have been received in response to said messages.

14. (new) A device for transmitting messages comprising:

a first receiver that receives a message, said message containing an attribute, sub-command, and a destination address;

a memory that stores said message and said attribute, said attribute corresponding to a

5 Media Gateway having an address;

a locator that finds in said memory said address of a said Media Gateway; and

a second receiver that receives the address of said Media Gateway, said subcommand, and said attribute and forms messages.

15. (new) A network comprising:

a Media Gateway Controller (MGC);

a Media Gateway proxy, said proxy coupled to said MGC and comprising:

5 a first receiver that receives a message, said message containing an attribute, sub-command, and a destination address;

a memory, coupled to said first receiver, that stores said message and said attributes, each of said attributes corresponding to a selected one of said plurality of Media Gateways, each of said gateways having an address;

a locator, coupled to said memory, that finds in said memory said address of a said  
10 selected Media Gateway using said destination address and said attribute; and

a second receiver, coupled to said locator, that receives the address of said gateway, said subcommand, and said attribute and forms messages using said sub-command, said address, and said attribute; and

a plurality of Media Gateways coupled to said Media Gateway proxy.

15

16. (new) A Media Gateway proxy comprising:

a first interface to an Media Gateway Controller, said first interface implementing translating commands issued by the Media Gateway Controller and translating these commands into actions on an actual Media Gateway; and

5 middleware that translates control and management functionalities passed on to it by the first interface and translates these functionalities into appropriate requests to an internal MGC;

wherein the internal MGC issues standard commands to one or more Media Gateways.